

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10259 221241Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10259

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IT, VT
SUBJECT: VIEWS ON ITALY OF VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 20 AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY
AMBASSADOR LODGE FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING ME TO
ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, THE VATICAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER, WE
HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH OUR POLICY TOWARD ITALY.

2. CASOCOLI WAS WELL VERSED ON SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED HIS
PERSONAL VIEW THAT OUR CURRENT POLICY AS "ON THE MARK"
AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE WITH THOSE ITALIANS
WHO ARE WAVERING OR UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
IN ITALY THAN A DIRECT AND STRIDENT ANTI-PCI POLICY. HE
ALSO NOTED THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT DOUBT COMMUNIST PARTY
CHIEF BERLINGUER'S SINCERITY IN PROFESSING ATTACHMENT TO
PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY, BUT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT THE
TRADITIONAL PCI HARD LINERS WOULD PROBABLY PREVAIL.

3. CARAROLI ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FRIENDS AND ALLIES
SHOULD ASSIST ITALY OUT OF ITS PERENNIAL CRISES, NOT
ONLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. I THEN OUTLINED OUR THOUGHTS
FOR INCREASING CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AND FOR PROVIDING APPROPRIATE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. CASAROLI VOICED READY APPROVAL
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PAGE 02 ROME 10259 221241Z

AND ENCOURAGEMENT.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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